

REMARKS

The present application contains claims 1-70, all of which are currently under consideration, and the status of which is as follows:

(a) Claims 2-3, 6, 10-13, 24-28, 32, 38-42, and 46-49 are as originally filed.

(b) Claims 14, 16-19, 30-31, 33, 35, 44-45, 50, 52-55, 59-60, 62-64, 66-68, and 70 were previously presented.

(c) Claims 1, 4-5, 8-9, 23, 37, 61, 65, and 69 have been currently amended.

(d) Claims 7, 15, 20-22, 29, 34, 36, 43, 51, and 56-58 were previously canceled without prejudice.

No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Applicant thanks Examiners Caldwell and Lin for the courtesy of a personal interview with Applicant's representative, Sanford T. Colb (Reg. No. 26,856), held in the USPTO on October 16, 2006. The rejection of claim 23 over US Patent Application Publication 2003/0167310 to Moody et al. was discussed at the interview. Mr. Colb suggested amending the claim to recite that the chart includes a plurality of nodes, each of which nodes represents a person selected from the group consisting of: the sender and the one or more

recipients. The Examiners suggested that the proposed amendment does not distinguish between a chart in which each of the nodes represents a single person, and one in which each of the nodes represents a plurality of persons. It was agreed that if the Applicant would: (1) amend the claims to recite "single person," and (2) argue this point with respect to Moody, whose nodes shown in Fig. 7 thereof represent documents involving multiple persons, then the claims would be in a condition for allowance, assuming that no new art is discovered in a subsequent search.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Moody et al.

All of the pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication 2003/0167310 to Moody et al. While not necessarily agreeing with this rejection, in order to expedite the issuance of a patent, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 23, and 37 to include the additional feature discussed at the interview that the "chart includes a plurality of nodes, each of which nodes represents a single person selected from the group consisting of: the sender and the one or more recipients." Support for this amendment is provided by at least Fig. 3B of the present application as filed, in which chart 120 is shown including a plurality of nodes, each of which represents a single person who is either

a sender or recipient (or both). Support is also provided in the specification, which states, "In this example, arrows 180, 182 and 184 represent the sending of an e-mail from a sender (Paul Earnest) to three respective recipients (Peter Lawrence, Steve Goddard, and Golan Duvnov)" (p. 15, lines 20-23).

Arrows 180, 182 and 184 correspond to "the propagation history superimposed as a pathway" recited in claim 23, and the nodes and straight lines connecting the nodes correspond to "a chart showing a relationship among the sender and recipients" recited in claim 23.

Claim 1, 23, and 37 as amended are neither anticipated by Moody et al., nor obvious in light thereof. The nodes of the tree of Moody et al. represent documents, rather than sender(s) and recipient(s). See, for example, paragraph [0076], in which Moody et al. describe Figs. 6A-D as "document trees" including parent and child "documents," and Fig. 6D, in which some of the nodes are labeled "shadow document." Furthermore, each of the documents of Moody et al. shows at least two persons. In contrast, claims 1, 23, and 37, as amended, recite that each node represents a single person.

In light of the suggested patentability of independent claims 1, 23, and 37, dependent claims 2-6, 8-14, 16-19, 24-28, 30-33, 35, 37-42, 44-50, 52-55, and 59-70 are

also in a condition for allowance, being of narrower scope than the respective independent claims from which they depend. (Claims 4-5 and 8-9, which were independent, have been currently amended to depend from claim 1.)

Dependent claims 61, 65, and 69 have been currently amended to additionally recite that "the chart shows a hierarchy of an organization of persons," in order to clarify that the phrase "organizational hierarchical relationship," which appears later in these claims, is intended to refer to an organization of persons. This meaning is clearly supported in the specification and figures as filed. For instance, the specification provides the example of a corporate organizational hierarchy: "Thus, for example, the user would be able to quickly see that a given piece of e-mail was sent back and forth among several junior engineers in a particular office, then bounced to a senior engineer, who immediately forwarded it to the CEO, who, in turn, forwarded the mail with added comments to all division chiefs..." (pg. 3, line 31 - pg. 4, line 5).

The Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are now in

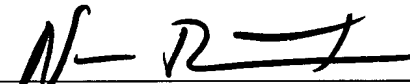
Appln. No. 10/035,423
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order for allowance. Notice to this effect is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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